

# San Juan Public Lands People

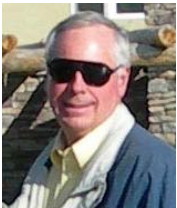
News for San Juan Public Lands  
employees, retirees & partners

Winter 2012

## San Juan National Forest Staff Officers Reorganize



**DURANGO** - The San Juan National Forest has reorganized program oversight duties in the Supervisor's Office at the San Juan Public Lands Center as a result of the recent dissolution of dual delegation between USFS and BLM. With Brad Dodd being named Tres Rios Field Office Associate Field Manager, he now oversees only BLM resource programs. Dodd's earlier assigned USFS duties for lands, soil, water, air, and minerals have been divided up between San Juan NF program managers, as follows...



Johnson

**Mike Johnson, San Juan NF Staff Officer for Renewable Resources**, has added USFS soil, water and air programs to his current management of USFS range, timber, fuels and fire programs.



Martinez

**Mark Lambert, San Juan NF Staff Officer for Planning and Public Services**, has added USFS lands, trails and climate-change programs to his current management of USFS planning, public service, recreation, wilderness, geographic information systems and cultural resources programs.



Lambert

**Ben Martinez, San Juan NF Staff Officer for Engineering**, has added USFS minerals and abandoned mined lands to his USFS engineering responsibilities.



Stiles

**Ron Duvall, San Juan NF Staff Officer for Administration**, will retain his earlier duties of managing USFS human resources, budget, contracting and other admin programs.



Duvall

**Mark Stiles, San Juan NF Supervisor**, will continue to oversee the above staff officers, as well as the San Juan National Forest's Columbine, Pagosa and Dolores district rangers and the public affairs officer.

SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS PEOPLE, which is published by the San Juan National Forest Public Affairs Office, includes USFS and BLM employee news.  
Read this and past issues online at: [www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan/about/newsletter.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan/about/newsletter.shtml)

# SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER



## Matt is BLM SW District Associate



**DURANGO** - Matt Azhocar is the new BLM Southwest Associate District Manager working out of the PLC reporting to Lori Armstrong, BLM Southwest District Manager in Montrose. Matt is responsible for overseeing the Tres Rios budget, workforce planning and organization for consistency with standards and objectives. He previously served as Assistant Field Manager for the BLM Butte Falls Field Office in the Medford District, a Service First Interagency Office with the Rogue River-Siskiyou NF since 2007.

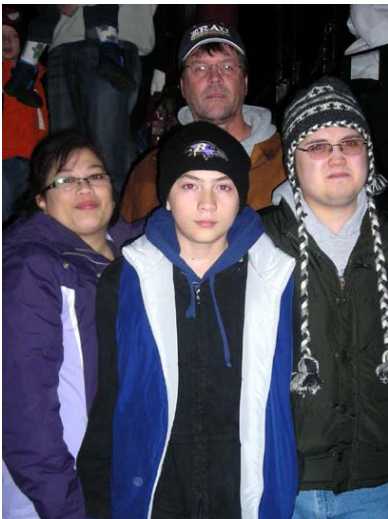
Matt began his federal career in the U.S. Navy in 1993. In 2000, while studying hydrology at Oregon State University, he worked in the Student Career Experience Program for BLM on the Oregon Coast. After receiving his Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources with a Watershed Management emphasis, he was hired by the BLM Coos Bay District as the Myrtlewood Field Office Hydrologist.

Matt has completed the BLM Emerging Leaders Program and several special detail assignments in the Pacific Northwest. He also holds a Master's Degree in Management from Southern Oregon University and is working on a Graduate Certificate in Sustainability Leadership from Southern Oregon University.

Matt and wife, Heidi, have three daughters, Payton, 10; Quinn, 7; and Scout, 3; as well as chocolate lab pup, Rylee, and cat, Snowball.

"I am already inspired by the people I have met here and am eager to make connections with the employees of the San Juan Public Land Center, the Southwest District BLM offices and the surrounding communities."

- Ann Bond



## Joni is New Purchasing Agent



**DURANGO** - Joni Dutcher is the new San Juan NF Purchasing Agent in the PLC, also serving as Local Area Program Coordinator for the Government Purchase Card Program.

Previously Joni was Purchasing Agent/Government Purchase Card Program Coordinator for the Santa Fe, Cibola and Carson NFs in New Mexico. She started her federal career in 1991 in the U.S. Army as an Administration Assistant and Data Entry Clerk in Small Business Administration. She also worked as a Clerk Typist for the U.S. Navy and Medical Records Technician for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Joni has studied Business and Management at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Spokane Falls Community College and Parks University. She and husband, Dean, retired Air Force, have two boys, Cody, 21, and Dustin, 13.

"I really like being a Purchasing Agent and look forward to getting to know the staff and community," Joni says.

- Ann Bond



Weminuche Wilderness



# SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER

## SJMA Winter Discovery Walks

**DURANGO** - The San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) is offering free guided winter discovery walks to home and traditional schools, scout groups, family groups, science clubs, etc. inside or in the San Juan NF.

Even with this winter's drought, don't despair - no snow is required to learn about winter nature. The format is flexible to meet the abilities and interests of each group. Walks are offered to ages four and up (snowshoes are provided for children, when needed).

Locations include La Plata Canyon, Boggy Draw, Echo Basin and Junction Creek. Topics include animal tracks and scat, snow crystals, trees, scavenger hunt bingo, animal adaptations and bird watching. Walks can be scheduled at any time by contacting the SJMA Conservation Education Department. *-Gabi Morey*



## Ann Heads to Dolores

**DURANGO** - Ann McDonald, Bureau of Indian Affairs Aircraft/Lead/Assistant Center Manager since 2003 has left the Durango Interagency Fire Dispatch Center to return to the Dolores Public Lands Center as a San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) Visitor Information Specialist (VIS).

Ann has an Applied Associates Degree in Wood Products Technology from Haywood Community College in North Carolina. She and husband, Larry Fleig, have a rescue boxer, Rocco, and three rescue cats. She enjoys hiking, gardening, cooking, wood carving, and reading.

"I have learned so much from my fellow dispatchers," Ann says. "I learned more than I ever thought I would about aviation and fire."

Ann says she is proud to have been able to remain calm, "at least on the outside," during the extremely stressful times in dispatch and appreciates all the friends that she made in the "fire world."

*- Ann Bond*



## Mark Your Spring Calendar

**DURANGO** - Plan for Cheeseburgers-in-Paradise again at the Public Lands Center on Thursday May 31, 2012.



The annual event will be hosted, as always, by the Durango Federal Employees Association. Members eat for free, and non-members, including retirees and guests, pay just \$5 for lunch. The event will be held outside, weather permitting.

Retirees are invited to participate. Spring 2012 retirees will be our special guests of honor. Don't worry, no speeches - we just want to give everyone who leaves this spring a warm belated send off into retirement.

*- Liz Haydon*



Velocity Basin



## COLUMBINE RANGER DISTRICT

### Post Service-First Changes

**BAYFIELD** - Three Columbine staffers who were dual-delegated to handle both BLM and USFS duties during the Service First years on the San Juan are now focusing on management of National Forest lands and issues for the Columbine RD.



Botsford

**Jed Botsford, Recreation Staff Officer**, will now handle National Forest recreation management. Jed started his federal career in 1992 as a seasonal employee working for both USFS and BLM. He landed his first permanent position in 1999 as Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner for the BLM in Nevada, before moving to the San Juan in 2009.

**Lynn Wodell, Realty Specialist**, will now be conducting land exchanges, acquisitions, and special use permits for road access and filming on National Forest lands. Lynn has been with Columbine since 2009.

**Lynn Robinson, Field Archaeologist**, will now handle San Juan NF archaeological projects. Prior to moving to Columbine in 2010, Lynn was an archeologist for the Carlsbad BLM Field Office and the National Park Service at Joshua Tree National Park.

- Ann Bond, Stan Sparks



Wodell



Robinson



### Tipton Named New FMO

**BAYFIELD** - Chris Tipton has been named Columbine RD Fire Management Officer (FMO) responsible for program oversight for the district's fire management program. He spent last summer here on the Columbine RD on a detail as FMO.

Chris began work in the emergency services field in 1990 in Alaska with the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol. In 1992 he joined the Arapahoe Rescue Patrol Mountain Rescue Team. Chris began his USFS career in 1998 as a member of the Mormon Lake Interagency Hotshot Crew in Flagstaff and worked his way up to Squad Leader.

In 2004, Chris moved to Golden as an Initial Attack module leader and AmeriCorps crew supervisor, in 2006 was named Captain of the Prescott Hotshots, and in 2008 became Superintendent of the Santa Fe Interagency Hotshots. In 2010 he became Director of the National Interagency Fire Use Training Academy in Tucson.

Chris and wife, Susie, have a son, Aidan, age 1. Susie is a Clinical Education Specialist for Mercy Regional Medical Center and has worked in emergency medicine since 1996.

They enjoy mountaineering, skiing, hiking, ice and rock climbing, camping, fishing, and spending time outdoors.

"I look forward to the complexities and challenges that come with this job opportunity for a great many years to come," Chris says.

- Ann Bond



### Scott is New Resource Assistant

**BAYFIELD** - Scott Justham is a new Resource Assistant for Columbine Ranger District handling recreation permits. He comes to us from the BLM Bishop Field Office in California where he had worked as Park Ranger since 2001.

Scott recently moved to Durango with his wife, Heather Johnson, who is working for Colorado Parks and Wildlife as a wildlife researcher.

Scott has experience in managing rock climbing and off-road vehicles, as well as wilderness management and restoration. His educational background is in natural resource management.

He and Heather enjoy climbing peaks, backpacking, trail running and back-country skiing. They have an 11-year-old black lab.

"I am very excited to start with the USFS and look forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead," Scott says.

- Ann Bond



## DOLORES PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE



### Derek is New District Ranger

**DOLORES** - Derek Padilla is the new Dolores District Ranger overseeing management of lands and resources on the west side of the San Juan NF. He comes to us from the Santa Fe NF where he has been Cuba District Ranger since 2008.

Derek began his federal career in 1992 as a Range Technician in the Student Temporary Employment Program on the Cuba RD, then was a Student Trainee on the Williams RD of the Kaibab NF until he was hired permanently in 1998 as a Rangeland Management Specialist.

In 2002, Derek was named Santa Fe NF Jemez RD Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist. Other assignments have included a detail as Acting Range Staff Officer for the Santa Fe NF in 2006, serving as host District Ranger for the 2009 National Rainbow Family Gathering, (which he calls "the most memorable experience in my career so far") and a detail as Acting Forest Supervisor on the Gila NF last year.

Derek holds a Bachelor's degree in Range Science from New Mexico State University. He and wife, Leslie, have a daughter, Jenna; son, Joseph; and Jack Russell terrier, Belle. The family enjoys outdoor activities, especially boating and fishing.

"I'm excited about the challenges that come with a ranger district in a different region," he says. "This is an opportunity to gain valuable experience, while still being close to extended family in northern New Mexico. I look forward to working with new people, new issues, and helping the San Juan accomplish its goals."

- Ann Bond



### Chris Named to Trails Position

**DOLORES** - Chris Bouton has been named Forestry Technician in charge of trails, dispersed recreation and wilderness programs on the Dolores RD. The position has been vacant since Lloyd McNeil retired last winter. Since then, Chris has helped keep these complex programs afloat, while juggling his normal duties associated with travel management, roads and recreation.

Chris started his federal career in 2002 on a Kaibab NF trail crew. He came to the San Juan as Dolores trail crew leader in 2004. When he wasn't working for the USFS during the summer months, he assisted the BLM Dolores Field Office with recreation and travel management projects. In 2007 Chris moved over to the Pagosa RD to take a full-time recreation position.

In 2008, Chris was asked to come back to Dolores to help with implementation of travel management plans. Anyone who has worked with Chris knows he is worthy of this position; he is a great steward of our public lands and is truly an asset to the agency.

- Penny Wu



### Celia Lands Agency Position

**DOLORES** - Celia Boyd, San Juan Mountains Association Visitor Information Specialist at the Dolores Public Lands Office since 2003, has been named the USFS Dolores District Resource Assistant. She'll be helping to lighten the administrative workload in permitting, database updates, NEPA mail outs and human resources.

Celia and husband, Steve, have two children, Cole, 19, who lives in Cortez and works for Triad, and Shaylie, 23, who lives in Grand Junction. They are helping to raise their granddaughter, Shyanne, who will be 5 in March. They live on a ranch north of Mancos, where they have bred and trained appaloosas and quarter horses for 28 years.

"I ride home-raised and home-trained horses," Celia says. "I have competed in mounted shooting events in Colorado, Wyoming, Arizona and New Mexico."

Her goal for 2012 is to compete in the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association World Championships in Amarillo, Texas in October.

- Ann Bond, Toni Kelly

# DOLORES PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE



## Melody is Tres Rios Admin Assistant



**DOLORES** - Melodie San Miguel is the new BLM Tres Rios Field Office Administrative Support Assistant in the DPLO handling BLM administrative support, human resource, procurement and credit cards.

Melodie began her federal career in 1990 with the National Park Service as a Cooperative Association Clerk at Sequoia National Park. The following year she became Chief Ranger's Secretary at Big Cypress National Preserve in Florida.

In the 1990s, Melody worked as Supervisory Administrative Assistant in fee collection at Devils Tower and Fire Program Administrative Assistant at Dinosaur National Monument. From 1998 to 2005, she was Chief Ranger's Assistant at Mesa Verde National Park. Since then she has worked for as a Court Judicial Assistant for La Plata Combined and Montezuma County courts.

Melody holds a Bachelor's degree in Geography from California State University. She is in the Mancos Valley Chorus, plays piano and guitar and enjoys quilting and hiking. She and husband, George, branch manager for Natural Resources at Mesa Verde NP, have a son,

Daniel, 11, golden retriever, Scout, and cat, Rascal. "I'm excited to be back with the federal government and working with the Tres Rios Field Office and Anasazi Heritage Center," Melodie says.

- Ann Bond

**DOLORES** - Laura Kochanski, 55, passed away on November 11, 2011, with her husband, Tom Kochanski, by her side, at the University of Arizona Medical Center in Tucson after a long illness.

Laura began her federal career in the 1980s as a seasonal archaeological technician for the Coconino NF. She came to the San Juan NF in 1988, first as an archaeologist in the Supervisor's Office in Durango and then for the Mancos and Dolores Ranger Districts.

Laura also served as BLM Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Archaeologist, Chief of Resources Management of Pu'uuhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park in Hawaii and Archaeologist for the BLM Monticello Field Office.

Laura also worked for Crow Canyon Archaeological Center as a ceramic analyst, for the Museum of Northern Arizona on excavations for the Tucson Aqueduct portion of the Central Arizona Canal Program, and for Northern Arizona University on projects across the Navajo and Hopi Reservations. Tom says Laura passed away peacefully, holding his hand while listening to one of her favorite Hawaiian songs.

## In Memory of Laura



La Plata  
Mountains